

Hantavirus Infection

The Southwest Utah Public Health department has confirmed that there is a case of Hantavirus in our area. The virus is found in the droppings, urine, and saliva of rodents, usually deer-mice. The infection starts with flu-like symptoms that develop into difficulty breathing and can become life threatening. Treatment requires intensive hospital care. Hantavirus infection can be prevented by avoiding contact with rodents including their nests and droppings, other measures include:

- Seal openings in structures and set mouse traps.
- Allow an infested area to air out for at least 30 days before cleaning
- Clean droppings by spraying with disinfectant (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) and then wipe up with disinfectant wipes.
- Wear gloves and mask (N95) while cleaning or when handling nests or dead mice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or a member of the CHR for help.

Dr Dennis J Day
CHR Director